

AGENDA



Thursday, July 26, 2007

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 135**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance on first reading regarding the application submitted by Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. for a non-emergency medical transfer franchise under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code.

Fiscal Note: There is no fiscal impact, a fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Ernie Rodriguez, EMS Deputy Director, 972-7203

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board.

Prior Council Action: 6/21/07 to set the public hearing

In order for a private ambulance company to provide non-emergency medical transfer services within the city limits it must obtain a franchise from the City of Austin. Chapter 10-2 of the City Code requires that a public hearing be held regarding such applications. The purpose of this RCA is to conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance on first reading, regarding a non-emergency transfer franchise application by Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. Currently, two companies hold non-emergency transfer franchises in Austin, American Medical Response (AMR) and MetroCare Services-Austin, LP (MetroCare). Non-emergency medical transfers typically occur between skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, and private residences and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel.

Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc (Acadian) submitted a franchise application on May 11, 2007. MetroCare's franchise expires on October 22 and Acadian plans to purchase MetroCare following City Council's approval of its franchise application, and will then take over all operations currently being handled by MetroCare. The current MetroCare staff will be offered employment with Acadian. MetroCare's current medical director, Dr. Rhett Reed, will continue to provide medical direction for the new franchise. All of MetroCare's Austin facilities, fleet and medical equipment will be acquired by Acadian.

Staff recommends approval of the franchise application based on a review of the applicant's operations, performance, and customer satisfaction ratings in its current markets. This review also considered Acadian's proposed improvements to the level of service currently being provided by MetroCare. The term of the franchise would be 5 years. The Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board recommended approval of Acadian's application at its meeting on June 26, 2007.